

Perth Amboy Evening News

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THE EVENING NEWS IS AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1904.

THE PORT OF PERTH AMBOY.

When a paper like the Newark Evening News talks about a city like Newark being a rival of Perth Amboy it is, indeed, time for the people of this city to sit up and take notice. Yet this is what is now happening and the cause is found in the recent reports from the various New Jersey custom houses, which show Perth Amboy to be the largest in the State. In the special dispatches from Washington, D. C., published in the News a few days ago the figures of the various ports of entry were given. Since then, several times, in our Editorial Comment, we have quoted the opinions of some of the leading papers of the State on the subject, all complimentary to Perth Amboy.

The figures given are: Perth Amboy, \$111,898.25; Newark, \$95,112.93. This gives Perth Amboy \$16,785.32 more for custom collections for the past year than the larger city. In commenting on this, the Newark News says:

"In making this comparison there is not the slightest envy of Perth Amboy, but rather congratulations upon the rapid growth of that city's waterway commerce. Yet there is a righteous discontent with the lack of adequate waterway facilities which this city has been compelled to tolerate, while ocean vessels may come and go at Perth Amboy without risk of being swept from their anchorage by floods or grounded on mud bars at low tide. The very fact that a city so far inland, with only shallow channel approaches, rivals one on the coast with free access to these for vessels of almost any tonnage shows what Newark might do, and doubtless would do, if it had proper waterways to carry its commerce."

Newark is making the big mistake of trying to take deeper water to the factories inland instead of establishing the factories where there is deep water. It is the manufacturer's own fault if he has not deep water facilities. The advantage Perth Amboy has over her sister cities is being realized more and more in the business world and industries are locating here where these advantages can be enjoyed. Perth Amboy has been gaining on Newark in her custom receipts, the local port, having, heretofore, been forced to take second place. Now Newark has been passed and Perth Amboy leads. Newark need not hope to ever regain her supremacy. The difference between the receipts at the two ports will be even greater in Perth Amboy's favor next year and will so continue each succeeding year.

PERTH AMBOY SCHOOLS.

In the report of County Superintendent Willis, read at the meeting of the County School Board Association, an account of which was given in the Evening News yesterday, the account and second next Thursday night it is expected of pupils in Perth Am-

given at 518,019 while the attendance in New Brunswick was but 392,931. This gives some idea of the lead this city has over the county seat. As to the growth of the two places, Perth Amboy's strides is shown by the gain in school attendance over the year 1903. Perth Amboy's gain was 40,672 while New Brunswick gained but 9,965. It is only a few years before New Brunswick will be left hopelessly behind.

The report of the county superintendent is exceedingly flattering to Superintendent Shull. It shows that the cost of maintaining the schools was only \$10.29 per pupil in this city against \$18.77 in New Brunswick, \$12.42 in Woodbridge and \$12.05 in South Amboy. At the same time the schools of Perth Amboy will compare favorably with any in the State and are quite the equal and superior in many respects to those of the county. That the local schools have been kept at such a high standard of excellence at so small a cost when compared with the cost in other cities, is due to the efficient management of Mr. Shull. The entire showing is a matter of congratulation to this city.

The fact that the port of Perth Amboy is now the largest in the State in custom receipts, exceeding that of Newark, makes an excellent argument for the Chamber of Commerce to boom Perth Amboy. If that organization was really "up to snuff," it would have a live committee always on the lookout for just such facts as this and see that they, along with the other numerous advantages of this city, are duly advertised and called to the attention of the business world; at the same time endeavoring to increase the attractions.

STRANGELY MISSING.

Mrs. John Lamp, of 220 Washington street, late yesterday reported to the police that Christina E. Christianson, the demented domestic, who was given into her custody, two or three days ago, as told in the News, has been missing since yesterday morning. She is thirty-four years old, and has been in this country but six weeks. When she left the house her feet were clad in carpet house slippers. She wore black skirt, gray coat and a black velvet hat.

MANY AFTER OFFICES.

At the meeting of the local Electrical Workers Union, Thursday night, in the Adelaide building, nominations for new officers were made. So many men are looking for a place that when the election takes place next Thursday night it is expected there will be a hot fight.

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LEGAL TALK ON BRIDGE.

An Opinion as to What Rights the City and County Have in the Matter.

Editor Evening News:

The presentation by the grand jury as to the famous unfinished bridge, that stretches its course over the waters of the Raritan river between the shores of South and Perth Amboy, appears to be rather amusing (although there is a precedent for it; viz "The Pope's Bull against the Comet") in face of the fact that the law and not grand juries fixes the relative obligations of municipalities and public bodies whose whole machinery is legal machinery and not artificial, and is such that does not work in accordance with or is not disarranged by the whims of public clamor or the presentations of grand juries. And that it is the legal and not the supposed moral obligations that fix what shall and must be done by these respective bodies.

It is said that "Corporations have no souls" and it can be truly said that they are devoid of "moral obligation" also. And it must be borne in mind that as "One swallow does not make a spring," neither does one judge, whatever his ability may be, make the law. The duty of building the bridge and finishing it is a pure question of law as to the relative rights and duties of the county and city. What the freeholders are bound to do as to the building of this bridge, that it may be accessible at both ends to the travelling public and a bridge in fact is firmly settled law. That duty cannot be disregarded or evaded by "what was understood," "what was supposed" or for "what was imagined" or by "moral obligations" or presentations of grand juries, nor can the city of Perth Amboy under take things or make agreements beyond its chartered or legal powers. This talk about "moral obligations" and "was understood" is pure nonsense. The question to be met is "What is each body bound to do in law and what each should do and can legally do or should be made to do?" Neither body can do things, spend money or incur obligation, at libitum.

There is no uncertainty as to what constitutes a bridge in law, the definition of which has a fixed meaning and if any court decides that the present structure, that looms up in the air like Mahomet's coffin, or a skeleton hung in chains, on the outer shore line on this side of the river is a completed bridge, then all the decisions of the courts and the settled common law as to what constitutes a bridge are at fault and new precedents will have to be established on this important question.

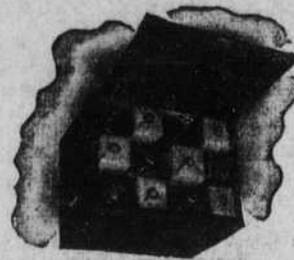
There is no doubt but that mistakes have been made in this "Comedy of Errors." The first mistake was made when the city accepted this ravine as a street from the hands of its liberal former owner, who, if he had kept this "white elephant," would have had to fill it in himself at a large outlay to make it available or let it rest in its present normal condition. No one can blame the giver of "a white elephant," the one to be blamed is the person who is so foolish as to receive it. The human tendency is to keep those things that are useful and to give away those that are not and selfishness is not a lost art to say the least and no one can criticize the giver. The criticism lies in its acceptance. The donor gave a deed con-

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roying this water course as a street to the city. If he had only run the lines of the street with the winding courses of his own line, it might not have been so bad, but not so generous. It is said that the land donated not only includes his own land but lands that he did not apparently own. When we are liberal with our own property we certainly are entitled to be called generous but when we include in the gift things belonging to others, we should be classed by the rules of ratio doubly generous. This and, owing to its native condition and formation at the time of the dedication, was of no earthly value to anyone. The idea of a public dedication was a happy one. Donate the land on condition that no expense should be attached to the adjoining land of the grantor whose lands were the only lands that would be the most benefited by the grading and the filling in at the expense of others. Can this generous gift be wondered at? "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver," but from such gifts "Good Lord deliver us."

When the plans for this bridge were made the freeholders knew where it would end. It laid with them to decide to land the bridge in this so-called street. Doing this was their folly, (landing the bridge at a foot plain does not discharge them of their plain duty) and one of which they cannot now complain. Besides there is another complication. Within the lines of this so-called street (it is said on good authority) are inclosed lands which the donor did not own and before either the freeholders or the city could put in this ground a pier or a shovel in filling in, it must be acquired. The only way is to have the question decided in a legal manner, in a proper way and in a proper court and which court will be comprised of nine judges and not one, a court that will not jump to conclusions without law or facts with the right of appeal to the court of the last resort composed of sixteen. "The Board of Aldermen have no right to spend the taxpayers' money except for those things authorized by law and finishing county bridges is certainly not one of them. Presentments of grand juries to the contrary."

It has been urged (upon what legal basis is left to the imagination) that because the city granted to a trolley company a franchise to lay their tracks on this street and bridge, is a reason that the city should do this work, but both the law say so? It must be remembered that the county

and not the city is the one who is to decide what trolleys are to go over this bridge and its approaches which are a part of it and that such a franchise granted by the city is as effective as against the rights of the county as if the city had granted the trolley company a franchise to lay its tracks on one of the streets of London and is another example of being over generous. The city has important rights in this matter to be protected, enforced and insisted on and not to be bartered away on moral notions and the Board of Aldermen can be depend on to so protect and enforce them. They are on the right track. The rights of the city in this matter should be and no doubt will be fully protected by them at all hazards and the late grand jury display at New Brunswick will not swerve this city from its own protection and legal rights, either the freeholders will be compelled to make this bridge a complete structure, finished from end to end, from top to bottom, in such manner as to make complete passage way, for all authorities decisions and other laws laid down in the books, are fictions. When the Supreme Court or the Court of Errors says that this city must do things that the law as it now stands says the freeholders must do, then and not till then should the city "grin and bear it." Let us insist on our rights and as a famous general once said: "Fight it out upon this line if it takes all summer."

STRUCK WITH SNOWBALL.

Frank Huda, a blacksmith, of upper State street, has complained to the police that he was struck in the eye with a snowball, and that, when he remonstrated, he was punched, as he alleges, by the same youth who threw the snowball.

MASQUERADE BALL TONIGHT.

Kvendeforeningen Dana will give a masquerade ball tonight in Washington Hall. It is for the benefit of the Perth Amboy City hospital. A large attendance is expected.

Mean Autoists at Newark.

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 17.—Anne Mulligan, eighteen years old, of 143 James street was struck by an automobile at Orange and High streets last night and seriously hurt. The autoist did not stop and got away. Miss Mulligan is at St. Michael's hospital.

WOULD KILL RABBITS AT ANY TIME OF YEAR.

Trenton, Dec. 17.—The usual importance incident to the election of officers of an organization was overshadowed Thursday at the meeting of the New Jersey State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, by the introduction of resolutions which advocate an abolition of the closed season for rabbits as now provided in the State game laws.

This proposition was received with hearty approval and during the morning there were many discussions favoring some steps to be taken to bring about the desired result expressed in the resolution. Several examples of the alleged harm done by rabbits to farmers' crops were given and the most striking of these was a statement by a delegate that during one day he put 1,000 cabbages in the ground and that an examination of this crop the succeeding day showed that 500 of the plants had been destroyed by the rabbits.

The ground was almost unanimous in its endorsement of the resolutions and it is said that when the measure is reported back for final action it will be adopted without a dissenting voice. It was shown that rabbits have in the past been the cause of much destruction to young trees and this effect was specifically stated as the result of girdding.

PRESENT GAME LAW. The present game law provides that rabbits shall not be killed at any season of the year except between November 10 and December 31. It is the desire of the State Grange that all restrictions be removed for the purpose of making it possible for the farmer to protect his crops from this animal.

Other than the rabbit resolution important business of the opening session was the election of these officers: Master George W. F. Gaunt, Mullica Hill; overseer, Charles Chalmers, Vineland; lecturer, David Agans, Three Bridges; steward, John M. Woolman, Elmer; steward, Henry M. Love, Cohasset; chaplain, Robert M. Torbet, Paterson. The offices of treasurer, secretary and gatekeeper will be filled later.

Yesterday afternoon resolutions were introduced suggesting amendments to the State automobile and milk laws, favoring the testing by the grange of the State game laws. Other resolutions presented favored the election of the United States Senators by direct vote, the passage of the parcels post law, and more rigid anti-trust laws. A resolution was also introduced opposing the repeal of the national oleomargarine law.

The resolutions were referred to the proper committees for report.

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